

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1 1-25. (Canceled).

1 26. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client
2 computer and a central computer, a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for a patient comprising the steps of:

4 receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted through
5 the network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test
6 request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested
7 laboratory test; and

8 transmitting information through the network from the central computer to
9 the client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a
10 label for use with the biological specimen.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising
2 the step of analyzing the at least one query at the central computer to verify that the
3 requested laboratory test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing
4 information.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said
2 receiving step comprises receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code as a part
3 of the at least one query and said analyzing step comprises searching a code database for
4 correspondence between the diagnosis code and the laboratory test code.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said
2 analyzing step comprises comparing an identified diagnosis and the requested laboratory
3 test to a maximum value to determine whether a maximum number of tests has been
4 exceeded for the identified diagnosis.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising
2 the step of transmitting a notification through the network from the central computer to
3 the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified
4 responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising
2 the step of requesting an indication that the patient is responsible for payment in
3 response to the notification.

1 32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising
2 the step of transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the
3 network from the central computer to the client computer if the requested laboratory test
4 is not payable by the identified responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising
2 the step of transmitting a request through the network from the central computer to the
3 client computer for additional information if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for
4 the requested laboratory test.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, said receiving step
2 comprising:

3 receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the at least one
4 query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for
5 whom the test is being ordered;

6 receiving billing information at the central computer in the at least one
7 query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible
8 for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at least one
10 query from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified
11 patient.

1 35-48. (Canceled).

1 49. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for receiving an order of a
2 laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for receiving, at the central computer, at least one query
7 transmitted from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test
8 request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested
9 laboratory test; and

10 means for transmitting information from the central computer to the client
11 computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for
12 use with the biological specimen.

1 50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said
2 receiving means comprises:

3 means for receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the
4 at least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the
5 patient for whom the test is being ordered;

6 means for receiving billing information at the central computer in the at
7 least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party
8 responsible for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 means for receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at
10 least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the
11 identified patient.

1 51. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for ordering a laboratory test of a
2 biological specimen for a patient comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for transmitting at least one query from the client computer to the
7 central computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient,
8 billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

9 means, at the at least one client computer for receiving information from
10 the central computer, the received information including data for generating a test
11 requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said
2 means for transmitting comprises means for selecting a laboratory test code
3 corresponding to the requested laboratory test from a menu of laboratory test codes.

1 53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, further
2 comprising means for customizing the menu of laboratory test codes to include laboratory
3 test codes commonly used by a client.

1 54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said
2 means for transmitting comprises means for selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to
3 an identified diagnosis from a menu of diagnosis codes.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 54, further
2 comprising means for customizing the menu of diagnosis codes to include diagnosis codes
3 commonly used by a client.

1 56-59. (Canceled).

2 60. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including
3 computer program instructions that cause a central computer, in a computer network
4 including at least one client computer and the central computer, to perform a method of
5 receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method
6 comprising the steps of:

7 receiving at least one query transmitted through the network from the

8 client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient,
9 billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

10 transmitting information through the network to the at least one client
11 computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for
12 use with the biological specimen.

1 61. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 60,
2 wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to
3 perform the step of analyzing the at least one query to verify that the requested
4 laboratory test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information.

1 62. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 61,
2 wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to
3 perform the step of transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through
4 the network to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the
5 identified responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

1 63. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including
2 computer program instructions that cause a client computer in a computer network
3 including the client computer and a central computer, to perform a method of ordering a
4 laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

5 transmitting at least one query through the network to the central
6 computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing,
7 and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

8 receiving information through the network from the central computer, the
9 received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use
10 with the biological specimen.

1 64-65. (Canceled)